



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 2014

NOTE FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN BILL COBEY — *The State Board of Education is a board of citizens appointed by the Governor to create policies to guide North Carolina's public schools and public charter schools. This newsletter is intended to help non-educators see what the Board is doing and considering and how those actions will affect the 1.5 million school children in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. View all State Board of Education member and advisor information online at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/AboutUs/AboutUs.aspx?S=10399&TID=1>*

26 NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS APPROVED

The State Board of Education approved 26 new public charter schools to open in the fall of 2014 at its January meeting. That brings the total number of charter schools open for students in the fall 2014 to 154. Students apply to attend public charter schools, and individual schools can serve students from any location in North Carolina. Here's the list of newly approved charters and the counties where they are located:

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| • A.C.E. Academy, Cabarrus | • KIPP Halifax College Preparatory, Halifax |
| • Anderson Creek Club Charter School, Harnett | • Pioneer Springs Community School, Mecklenburg |
| • Bradford Preparatory School, Cabarrus | • Providence Charter High, Rockingham |
| • Cardinal Charter, Wake | • Reaching All Minds Academy, Durham |
| • Carolina STEM Academy, Mecklenburg | • South Brunswick Charter School, Brunswick |
| • Charlotte Charter High, Mecklenburg | • The Capitol Encore Academy, Cumberland |
| • Charlotte Learning Academy, Mecklenburg | • The Franklin School of Innovation, Buncombe |
| • Concrete Roses STEM Academy, Mecklenburg | • Thunderbird Preparatory School, Mecklenburg |
| • Dynamic Community Charter, Wake | • United Community School, Mecklenburg |
| • Entrepreneur High School, Mecklenburg | • Wake Forest Charter Academy, Wake |
| • Envision Science Academy, Wake | • Wayne Preparatory, Wayne |
| • Heritage Collegiate Leadership Academy, Bertie | • West Charlotte Charter High, Mecklenburg |
| • Invest Collegiate, Buncombe | • Wilson Preparatory, Wilson |

More information about charter schools is online at www.ncpublicschools.org/charterschools.

ASSESSMENTS — STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE IS THE GOAL

When it comes to student assessments, educators and policymakers seek assessments that strike the right balance to give educators valid information they need without becoming too burdensome. Board members are considering new options for measuring student learning in English language arts and mathematics. While North Carolina's current state-developed end-of-grade and end-of-course tests are aligned to the standards that guide student learning today, there are some new options available. North Carolina has participated in the Smarter BALANCED consortium that is rolling out new student assessments. Board members this month considered the pros and cons of moving to Smarter BALANCED assessments and other considerations about the amount of student testing that takes place for various needs, how this

compares with other states' practices and what is best moving forward. NCDPI staff recommended that the Board consider:

- confirming the current assessment programs for use through 2015-16, and
- convene an advisory committee to consider all options and make recommendations for the future.

Teachers and other educators have absorbed a significant amount of change over the past two years, and there is interest in allowing everyone some time to adjust to all the change that has already occurred.

Other states have testing programs – either statewide or under district control – that are similar to North Carolina's, although North Carolina is the only state that does not test writing.

Board members will continue to discuss assessments with an eye to a decision in the next few months.

TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED

Calvin Wiley Elementary School in Guilford County (Tavy Fields, principal; Maurice Green, superintendent) and Jonathan Valley Elementary School in Haywood County (Heather Hollingsworth, principal; Anne Garrett, superintendent) were recognized as 2013-14 National Title I Distinguished Schools. This level of recognition indicates a school that was in the top 10 percent of Title I schools (based on 2011-12 and the two previous years) or a high progress school having made the most progress in improving performance of students. Title I is the largest federal education funding program for schools. Its aim is to help students who are behind academically or at risk of falling behind. School funding is based on the number of low-income students, generally those eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program.



SBE HIGHLIGHTS — A checklist of Board actions is posted every month immediately after the meeting's end. Access that at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/minutes-actions/sbe-actions/2013>. The State Board of Education's next meeting will be Jan. 8-9 in Raleigh. Proceedings are audio streamed through the Board's meeting site. Go to ncpublicschools.org and click on the SBE Meetings in the top right corner of the page.